



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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121 enlist in Tennessee National Guard at Memphis - Southern Miss basketball game

NASHVILLE – Basketball fans were on their feet and vocal at the January 27 game between the University of Memphis and Southern Mississippi at the FedEx Forum in Memphis.

In this instance, however, it was to honor 121 young men and women from the Memphis area who raised their right hands to take the oath of enlistment into the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, Jr., Tennessee's Adjutant General, administered the oath during half-time ceremonies. The group received a long and loud standing ovation. On hand also to congratulate the young soldiers were Maj. Gen. Jimmy Welch, of Dyersburg, and Maj. Gen. Russ Cotney, formerly of Memphis.

The oath of enlistment in its entirety states, *"I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Tennessee against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of Tennessee, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations. So help me God."*

Immediately prior to the game, two National Guard soldiers in battle gear drew loud applause when they rappelled 160 feet from the upper reaches of the arena, bringing with them the game basketball. They got a standing ovation when they paused halfway down to salute fans before descending to deliver the ball to the scorer's table.

Cutlines:

#1 The oath of enlistment into the Tennessee National Guard is recited by 121 young men and women during half-time at the Memphis-Southern Miss basketball game at the Fedex Forum. Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, Jr., Tennessee's Adjutant General and a native of Ripley, administered the oath.

#2 National Guard soldiers rappel 160 feet from the arena ceiling, bringing with them the game ball.

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